

MINUTES
Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen Meeting- Work Session
Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 6:30 PM
259 South Main St. Wolfeboro Public Library-Bradley Room

BoS Members present: Chair, David Senecal, Brad Harriman, Linda Murray, Luke Freudenberg, Brian Deshaies

Wolfeboro Police Commission members present: Commissioners Shawn Coope; Robert O'Brien

Staff present: Town Manager James Pineo; WPD Lt. Guy Maloney

Motion to approve (as amended)

Seconded

Approved

6:30 PM-Regular Session

Non-Public Session RSA 91-A: 3 - None

Action Taken- **Chairman Senecal calls meeting to order.**

BoS reorganizes for chairman and vice chairman.

Mr. Senecal says typically the vice chairman becomes chairman. Makes motion to Vote Brad Harriman as chairman. Seconded by Mrs. Murray. Approved by 4-0-1; Mr. Harriman abstains.

Mr. Senecal says Mr. Freudenberg has been nominated vice chair; Mr. Freudenberg accepts. Mr. Senecal makes motion to approve Mr. Freudenberg as vice chair. Seconded by Mr. Harriman. Approved 4-0-1; Mr. Freudenberg abstains.

1. Public Hearing(s)

Demolition of Town Building

i. In accordance with RSA 41:14-a, notice is hereby given to all residents of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, that a Public Hearing for the purpose to solicit comments regarding Demolition or Disposal of a town owned building on town owned property. Public Hearing shall be held on Wednesday March 29, 2023, at 6:30PM. and April 5, 2023, at 6:30PM. A vote on the matter by the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen shall take place on April 5, 2023, at 6:30 PM at the Great Hall at Wolfeboro Town Hall 7 Union Street.

The purpose of this demolition/disposal is for the new **Lehner Street Sewer Pump Station.**

Demolition or Disposal of Building

Mr. Pineo explains location of building.

Tax Map 218 Lot 012

Address 5 Valley Lane at Lehner Street.

Mr. Pineo explains the building 25'x40' that has to be removed for installation of the new Lehner Street pump station. This has been expected since the project was established; and is now imminent – possibly this summer.

Mr. Senecal opens the public hearing for comments. NONE

Mr. Senecal closes the public hearing.

BoS discussion.

Mrs. Murray asks whether the building will be demolished or disposed of.

Mr. Pineo says disposed of; a dumpster will be brought in.

Mrs. Murray asks whether anyone wants the building.

Mr. Senecal says that was tried and no one wants the building or wants to move it. He notes it's one of the oldest buildings in the area.

Mr. Senecal closes the hearing and it's noted a BoS vote will take place at the April 5th regular meeting.

2. Work Session with Wolfeboro Police Commission

A. Depot Street & Center Street crash mitigation efforts

Lt. Guy Maloney, WPD says he met with police chief and captain to discuss the issue. A recommendation by the police department and police commission is that some bollards be placed along the sidewalks to prevent a vehicle from jumping the curb and going into the building.

Commissioner Robert O'Brien says the commission thinks a stop sign should also be placed there. The commission met with Captain Livie earlier; the commission defers to his expertise [on the bollards idea].

Mrs. Murray says a stop sign would cut the speed of vehicles coming down the hill. Perhaps do it in steps; see how a stop sign works and then put bollards out. She adds perhaps a three-way stop adding a stop sign at Seven Sons as you come around the corner.

Commissioner O'Brien says he did not see drawings; there were meetings on the issue.

Lt. Maloney says the STOP sign would be not too far down the Depot Street hill.

Mr. Freudenberg asks where this would be placed – just past the home care business/building before the apartment building?

Lt. Maloney responds yes.

Mrs. Murray says a crosswalk could be installed there.

Mr. Deshaies says an earlier discussion addressed the possibility of changing the direction of the one-way streets. If the directions were changed opposite to what they are now, people would not be coming down the hill and taking the quick corner by the nail shop. They'd have to traverse across to left where Bradley's Hardware is or turn right. That is an option. It would change everything there.

Mr. Freudenberg comments there'd be more accidents for a couple of years.

Mr. Deshaies says it would be a learning curve for people because they're used to it. This idea may have come up during the charette for better traffic flow. If the WPD wants to see if there's potential and walk it; it's a suggestion.

Mr. Freudenberg says trying Mrs. Murray's idea is a stepped approach to this problem by adding a couple of stop signs. It'll get people to slow down in that area.

Mrs. Murray says the bollards could be added if there's still a problem. She talked to the woman in the nail salon who said speed coming down the hill is an issue; and if someone's backing up, there's a problem. (Mr. Deshaies talked to her at the same time.) Mrs. Murray says the phased approach may slow the traffic down.

Mr. Harriman says having a stop sign on the right and left sides – since it's a one way street – drivers would see the stop signs better given the parked cars and toward the left turn.

Mr. Freudenberg suggests DPW can paint a white stop-line to make it clear.

Commissioner O'Brien says the word "STOP" could be painted on the stop-line as well.

Mrs. Murray says whatever it takes; this should be done this year, for sure.

Mr. Deshaies asks should there be a crosswalk, too?

Mrs. Murray responds yes; Mr. Deshaies says a crosswalk slows people down.

Mr. Pineo comments – that he'll reach out to the director of Public Works to get him to put together a proposal for stop signs, painting, stop lines. That may not be done for the April 5th meeting, but certainly for the second meeting in April [April 19].

Mr. Freudenberg adds for the crosswalk, install a crosswalk marker in the road to slow drivers down coming down the hill.

Mr. Senecal says we'll try that and perhaps get a diagram from DPW director Steve Randall.

Mr. Pineo says probably by April 19th.

Mr. Harriman **corrects his earlier comments** about drivers coming down the hill [Depot Street] is actually two-way street – not a one-way street. So I don't know if having stop signs on the left and right will be OK.

Mr. Senecal says people would see both stop signs more easily.

B. Timed Parking Ordinance

Lt. Guy Maloney says representing the WPD, he took an interest in this issue and did research on his own. This could potentially be a new thing if implemented. Change is difficult. I tried to look at it objectively. It's something that is worth exploring. Chief and commissioner recommended this route as an option.

Main problem is supply and demand. Limited parking in town. Always been an issue. Limited number of parking spaces for people wanting to come into Wolfeboro. I don't think it will deter people from coming into Wolfeboro.

Spending money for parking is expected – like in Portsmouth.

Mr. Deshaies comments that he believes of the towns around the lake only Laconia has timed parking. He understands bigger towns such as Concord, Dover having meters or kiosks which works great. He's not sure whether Wolfeboro is ready to charge for parking.

Mr. Freudenberg comments a summer pilot program at Town Docks with an app or kiosk to limit infrastructure costs before we know if we're going to go forward with this. People deserve the ability to come into town and know they can find a parking spot; especially to grab takeout or run into a store like the shoe store. Sometimes there's no parking in town. Investing in infrastructure is a large expense whether an app or kiosk. I thought a test down there would not overburden the police department to either patrol and enforce down there. It would be a paid system and would limit people to an hour or two hours and keep people moving. Jim mentioned to me bringing back the 10-minute parking signs that people could park and pickup takeout. I think Linda was the only person that rode the shuttle from the high school. We have to encourage people through other means to not park in that corridor.

Mrs. Murray asks is this just during the summer that you're proposing?

Mr. Freudenberg says yes.

Mrs. Murray suggests 10-minute parking around the post office should be allowed. I like the idea if it does not cost us too much; give it a trial; see the reaction. We need to do something. Brian mentioned marking tires and got information from court cases.

Mr. Deshaies called the Department of Safety, Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation and Attorney General's office to find out if any NH town or police department received a complaint about tire chalking. They said no, not yet in our state. I understand the police department doesn't want to be involved in anything that could be controversial. I did find alternatives:

Digital Tire Tracking – officer would have a handheld device; he'd take a picture of the front license plate/tire. Have you seen this system before?

Lt. Maloney responds he learned about this today when speaking to the parking director in Portsmouth. He mentioned this is not done in Portsmouth.

Mr. Deshaies says he knows that four Seacoast towns in Maine use it; it's used in the Finger Lakes Region resort towns – Seneca, NY. We have two hour parking; the officer has everything on the device. In two hours, it notifies him of which cars are still in the same spot. The officer has the tire/license plate picture. The handheld device prints out the ticket and puts it on the car. It's all done. No car tire is touched with chalk. You don't have to have an administrator in the department monitoring everything. Everything goes into the cloud; there's a record of everything. It's half as much labor and time and not infringing on someone's constitutional rights.

Lt. Maloney says referring back to chalking tires – we won't do that for various reasons that I don't need to get into. We're down a couple of officers right now and in the summer we'll be training a couple of them.

Mr. Deshaies says there is \$5000 in the budget to have a part-time person who could have one hand-held device and could do that for 22 hours a week for the summer months.

Lt. Maloney says that brings up the issue of finding someone to do that. I would prefer we deploy a patrol officer down there. We've had civilians down there in the past. And they're disrespected. It's not an envious task to go down there and write visitors parking tickets. Going back to streamlining which I think is important for the PD; I like the pilot program; I like the location, too because it's premium parking there. To deploy an officer down there, scan license plates and find out if there's a violation; to me it seems it's more streamlined than taking the photograph. That's my opinion. I learned about it today and the person was steering me away from that and suggesting the phone app is the way to go. Portsmouth is doing away with meters. The kiosks are expensive; you rent them or there's a fee with having one. There's upkeep; eventually those will get phased out. It's all going to be done with a cell phone.

Mr. Deshaies: The issue I have with a cell phone – I talked to a lot of people about this – is we do have the oldest population in state of NH. We do have a a lot of guests and summer residents that are older. Not everyone is tech savvy with apps on smartphones. We put in the EV chargers in town. I pushed for the credit card swipe in them. They can be used with an app, a QR code or a credit card. 80-90% of our charges; we're getting hundreds of charges a month; they're all credit card swipes. People are familiar with it and they understand it. An app could be hard for some people to figure out.

Lt. Maloney says that's a common question. What about the elderly population and the ability to have a cell phone app and navigate through it. It would be a learning curve for me. There could be other alternatives with a kiosk, Maybe after a pilot program and find out what are some of the issues that might have popped up to make it easier for that population and maybe putting a kiosk there might be OK.

Mrs. Murray states we really need officers downtown. I heard that more than anything else. Are you going to have staffing downtown this summer?

Lt. Maloney: One of the roles I have at the PF is scheduling. With the current staffing we have, we'll have a mountain bike officer down there; maybe not every day – I'm shooting for everyday but things pop up and cause scheduling issues. The plan is to have a mountain bike officer down there for a decent part of the day; hopefully, seven days a week.

Commissioner Coope says we're confident we can accomplish that this year. We have officers in the academy who will be back in early June. We have a fantastic candidate now. I hope he works out. We'll be taking the school resources officers and putting them on the road.

Mrs. Murray says businesses will be pleased to have the mountain bike officer back. You got a \$7000 grant for that. A win for all of us.

I think also that the parking needs to be enforced this summer in the downtown. Whether we have to get what Brian is talking about. Kathy Eaton and the trolley – if it doesn't change then the option is going to be gone. If we don't prevent them from parking in the downtown all day, we're not going to have an option another year. This summer is when we have to do it. I have no problem with putting meters at Town Docks; I think we need to do the parking [enforcement] throughout the town. I'm willing to pick up the price of the ticket which is the other thing I heard. People said the employers will just pay the tickets. If the {ticket} is high enough and the trolley will try to accommodate a longer time if people use it.

One of the things I did see starting to happen with the trolley is people from Laconia who want to go on Molly who was picking up Jolly at the high school; going down and picking up Molly. There was more of that from visitors coming into Wolfeboro by trolley which is another plus. That's important for our businesses and one of our key businesses who I think in the summer – is going to be our long term solution to our parking.

Commissioner Coope states if we don't have enough time to put a new mechanism into place, like what Brian's talking about, the chalking – that's a court issue?

Mr. Deshaies states it went to the fourth circuit in Michigan and the ninth in New York. (Mrs. Murray adds). Mr. Deshaies goes on to say one court said the chalking was unconstitutional; one said they erred in their decision and it is constitutional for officers and they should have the tool to do their job.

Commissioner Coope notes that taking a picture of the license plate has been challenged; when laptops first came out, the officer is parked at an intersection and a car drives by and puts the license plate in. That's been challenged and you can't do that anymore. People are concerned about the constitutionality of picture-taking at tolls. Police can pull that at any time and say, who's going through there. It creates a record that you were going through there. State police in a homicide case need to get a search warrant for that; they can't just go and take that material. The photos have been challenged. Dean [Chief Rondeau] and I disagree on which of the two circuit courts are going to win that argument. There's a lot of case law on this; when you drive your car in the road, you have an expectation of privacy. But not same level you do in your home. That's been well established. I feel chalking – you're in a public space. Dean and I also talked about maybe it's criminal mischief (like kids) [makes motion of drawing]. But there's no criminal intent. It's called *mens rea*. My guess is we're going to be OK on that. Nothing's easy, is it.

Mr. Deshaies says he spoke with a technical sales/engineer official of the device company; he's a retired chief of police. I asked about the constitutionality of taking pictures of tires and license plates. He said it's never been challenged in court.

Commissioner Coope responds not in that application. It has been challenged. When the tolls took pictures of your plate; state police would help themselves to that at one point. That was a no-no. Every state is different. This state rules on the side of caution – protecting privacy. They may say, we don't love that. We'll see how it goes.

Commissioner O'Brien adds there's the possibility of an accusation of profiling. You've got out of state cars there. With a number of summonses, there could be grounds for some kind of a challenge. People could do these things.

Mr. Deshaies says there are a disproportionate number of out of state plates here in the summer. That's the way it is. I've heard the last two years since I've spent a lot of time downtown, it's everybody – not just people out of town – it's people from town; everybody says there's not a place to park; they go by there every day. The same cars are there all day, every day. People just don't have the consideration that they used to.

Lt. Maloney says looking at an increase in the fine amount is a prudent move. What I notice is the ticket is \$25. When you look at a contested ticket from start to finish there's pre-trial conferences that put the citation on file. It's not a good way of doing business. If the town is investing in it if the ticket is just going to go away anyway.

Mr. Senecal says from his experience, the town of Portland has kiosks going into their parking lots; you use a credit card. We thought we'd done everything right. Two days later, I got a fine request that we didn't pay for parking – which was \$35. The fine was \$43. I just paid the fine. They had a picture of my car and the license plate. Tonight on channel 9 [WMUR] in Hampton

as of April 1 they have new kiosks – new system – that will be done from your cell phone. You can use your cell phone and get more hours for parking. We might check into it to see how that one works. Maybe what they do with their old ones. We just one for all of dockside. We'd have to number each space.

Mr. Pineo says his understanding with the kiosk for us is they require power. Getting the power to them for winter heat and for operating the credit card system. Where we put it could be a challenge.

Mr. Senecal says it's a suggestion; we can look into it. Power supply might be able to come off of one of the lampposts. We could put it right up on that seat.

Mr. Freudenberg states it sounds like we've got to enforce parking this summer downtown. We probably need to raise the parking fine. At the same time, do we want to try something at dockside. I feel when people come into town, even if we have parking enforced, it'd be nice to almost guarantee that you can find a parking spot. I think you could do it at dockside if you charge people enough for parking. Limit it to one hour or two hours. That way there's almost a guaranteed spot. No one's going to want to pay...

Mrs. Murray says she thinks some of them would pay.

Mr. Deshaies says we ran into that when – [the EV charging stations] my recommendation was what if we allowed them to park for three hours and charge. What if they keep their car there. There's an idle fee; I recommended to the energy committee they charge \$5 an hour; that's double what they'd be paying for charging. The energy committee said no - \$20 an hour. I said, well that's a lot of money. They said, do you think \$20 an hour is a lot of money for someone who shows up with a \$95,000 Tesla from CT. That's what they pay to park their car anywhere they want to go. You're right about this, Lt. Maloney, the \$25 parking fine doesn't have any teeth because they leave their car for six hours – that's \$4 an hour.

Commissioner Coope says Plymouth State University parking fine is \$75.

Mrs. Murray says if we really don't want them to do it, \$75 would be even better than \$50.

Mr. Deshaies asks if there is an RSA stating the maximum that we can charge for a parking ticket.

Commissioner Coope says in the town ordinances he thinks there is.

Lt. Maloney thinks the maximum/highest is \$100.

Commissioner Coope says yes, to be under the town ordinance limit. You can write a state statute parking ticket; we don't want that.

Mrs. Murray says we need to check the ordinance.

Commissioner Coope says back when I was working it was \$100; he doesn't know if it's increased.

Mr. Deshaies says talking to the state, they said if we change the number of hours down that we have to notify them and they'd have to rewrite the regulation.

Mrs. Murray says you're saying for those parking spots on 109. For all the other roads and if we did dockside it would not be affected this year.

I'd like to know what we can do this year and how much it'll cost. If we get a kiosk down there; if we get this handheld what's that's going to cost; can we chalk the tires; what will cost us. Then I think we'll have better information moving forward.

Mr. Deshaies says Jim [Mr. Pineo] put out a request to the chief today asking for a five-year average of what we've written for tickets and how much revenue we've received. It's going to be all skewed because of the pandemic; made everything crazy. With short manpower, who knows what happened last year.

The numbers I did – initial cost to get; the guy was talking to me about 12 handheld units; we don't need 12 units. We need one or two – it would be significantly less; then there's a software fee; then you have to go down the road every year; there's a maintenance fee. He said if 100 tickets a year were written the system pays for itself. You won't make any money. You'll get the parking in order. People will realize they'll get a ticket. There will be a learning curve. Some people will get upset. But maybe we extend it to three (3) hours when we start enforcing so people have more time. Two hours is tough during this time of the year. If you wait for a table, eat, it could be more than two hours.

Mr. Freudenberg says dockside could be an hour, hypothetically. If you knew you could get a spot dockside. You get your shoes, run to the post office, get takeout – drop somebody off, get ice cream. That's an hour.

Mr. Deshaies asks municipal lots are free- correct?

Mrs. Murray says correct.

Mr. Deshaies suggests dockside could be one hour; 109A three hours. We could mix and match it.

Mr. Freudenberg says what he likes about Brian's thing is you don't have to have an officer walking and checking the chalk.

Mr. Deshaies says they'd [police] be notified.

Mr. Freudenberg says the bike patrol would be down there doing other things and would get notification about cars that are over the limit.

Commissioner Coope says it's very efficient. Did they give you a timeline Brian on when they could have one available? If you order one, how long does it take?

Mr. Deshaies says the representative wanted to Zoom in on the meeting tonight. But that was not possible. He said he will Zoom in and will come in and do a demo and it would be a quick turnaround.

Mrs. Murray says we did try; the chamber asked the town to do a four hour limit for the parking down there and the next year it went back to two because you didn't get the turnover.

Mr. Deshaies says three hours is right in the middle.

Mrs. Murray says the downtown core should be two hours. All you have to do is drive up to town hall and you're all free again. We need to do a better job of letting people know that and where our parking lots are.

Mr. Deshaies says downtown is where all the restaurants are and that's where all the parking spots are on the street in downtown. That's why we set the EV charges at three hours.

Mrs. Murray asks when would enforcement be – morning to night – which is the other issue.

Mr. Freudenberg says 9-6.

Mr. Deshaies says 9-5.

Mrs. Murray says that's what we have to figure out when do we want them; how long.

Commissioner Coope asks should it be seasonally- Memorial Day to Labor Day?

Mrs. Murray says she thinks it's June 15th to Columbus Day.

Commissioner Coope says he thinks 9-5. In the summer when you go down there about 6 p.m., it's quieted down. You can get a parking space when you can't during the day.

Mr. Deshaies says that would help dinner people, too. You don't want to be rushed for dinner and get to your car so you don't get a \$75 ticket.

Mrs. Murray says she likes short term parking spaces. She heard from the woman who owns Winni Paw. When the five-minute parking space was there for her customers who run in and come out with a big bag. It helped her tremendously. I think we also did it for take-out. We may want to have a couple five or 10-minute spots to support those businesses.

Mr. Deshaies says you're right about the post office. People park for six hours in front of the post office. Somebody who wants to go to the post office has to park down Glendon Street lot to walk to the post office; that becomes problematic. Maybe the post office should be a half-hour spot. Sometimes you can go into the post office and there's eight people.

Mr. Freudenberg notes that it's already a 15-minute zone in front of the post office.

Mrs. Murray agrees.

Mr. Freudenberg asks if a public hearing is needed in order to increase the parking fines.

Mrs. Murray says first we should find out what the fines are and see if we can get that; and then raising the fee and changing the time limit all at the same time in a public hearing. We need to put the packet together.

Mr. Deshaies says we should find out what towns around the lake are charging for parking tickets.

Mrs. Murray and Mr. Freudenberg suggest Mr. Deshaies is good at calling around.

Mr. Deshaies says I'd like us to be as same..as our neighbors so we're not looked upon as gouging our neighbors.

Mr. Freudenberg says we're a smaller town with a condensed core. Meredith has a lot of parking in a vast area.

Mrs. Murray – I'm with you, Luke. We're trying to solve a problem in our downtown core and how do we do that. I still think that if you call around that'll give us something to compare to. I think that makes sense, too.

Mr. Deshaies says there are town meetings from the 1800s where people were complaining there were too many carriages and horses downtown. This is nothing new.

Mr. Pineo says if the board and commission's all right with it, I'll authorize myself and the planner to work with Sgt. [Lt.] Maloney to put something together to get back to you hopefully by late April if that works for you. Questions about three handicap accessible spots in dockside area. Do you want provisions for those spots.

Mr. Senecal says there are four handicap accessible spots.

Commissioner Coope says Bob brought that up; the kiosk is built so it functions for handicapped; I don't know.

Commissioner O'Brien notes that handicapped are entitled to get any spot that's available with no time limit or charge (Mr. Senecal).

Commissioner O'Brien says since the summons is produced by a handheld unit, does that meet the requirements of the town of Wolfeboro compared to the summonses done by hand.

Mrs. Murray says we have to look at that.

Mr. Deshaies says the citation will have the police department's address, phone number, web site to pay online, mailing address to mail to the police department so they can pay any way. The company will work with the police department to customize exactly what you want on your ticket.

Commissioner O'Brien That's a question we have because I've seen them the other way.

Mr. Senecal asks if Mr. Deshaies will look into that.

Mr. Deshaies says yes. I can have the company representative ...show up at our next board meeting in April remotely and he can go through as many questions as everybody has. I can forward him to you first [WPD] if you want to discuss it with him.

Lt. Maloney says he doesn't have any issues talking to him.

Mrs. Murray says maybe we have a special meeting like we are tonight and not take up a board meeting. Maybe we look at the kiosk idea and sit down and look at it all and gather the information that's just focused on that.

Mr. Senecal says – a work session.

Commissioner Coope asks whatever you folks decide to use; do you have a preference – meet a person or an officer actually performing those tasks. Have you thought in depth about that?

Mr. Senecal says it comes down to money in your budget.

Mrs. Murray agrees.

Mr. Senecal continues – depending on what direction we want to take and give it back to you.

Mr. Deshaies notes there's \$5000 in the budget. Maybe it can be a stipend to the bike officer who's downtown anyway because he has additional duties. He's now in charge of writing tickets also.

Commissioner Coope asks whether the BoS feels strongly about having an officer down there with my tax dollar; I'd rather pay one and they can do more tasks.

Mrs. Murray agrees.

Mr. Deshaies says we're not looking for perfection. Not every single person who parks and is there for two hours and six minutes is going to get a ticket. That's not the intention.

Mr. Freudenberg says – that's luck.

Mr. Deshaies says the intention is that people know that you need to clear out of your spot as soon as you possibly can so someone else has a chance to visit the town.

Commissioner Coope says the system being discussed [handheld device] – it notifies the officer. He/she could be down at the Wright Museum on the bike; they could cover a lot of ground and take two minutes to get that bike back there. That's an efficient use of tax dollars.

Mr. Pineo asks if it's OK for Lt. Maloney and commissioners on this matter.

Mrs. Murray asks if there will be another meeting on this.

Mr. Pineo says it could be a special meeting or for the April 19th regular BoS meeting. That might be a little aggressive to get a package/proposal together.

C. Accuracy of Budget descriptions

Mr. Pineo says there were some board members that wanted to discuss the police commission budget. Descriptions and timeliness; the items coming in and the backup information. I think we learned a lesson with the SRO [school resources officer]. It seemed to come in late and it was overwhelmingly approved by the voters. But it was challenging for the board and budget committee because it was a struggle to get the information. I think a conversation is needed relative to that.

Mrs. Murray says Dean [Rondeau] did a wonderful job in the front of our book. He gave us all the strategic goals and everything. In here was what he would do for 2023 including the SRO. I did

know that was on the agenda. But it was thrown together at the last minute; one point pulled off, then put back on. The warrant article that we had talked about the school board putting it in their budget. They hadn't even dealt with it yet. Then we came to meet with you. It was kind of like don't you know this is important – but we did. There is a process.

When we came back to the budget committee, it got contentious. What surprised me was I went to the school board meetings. The Board of Selectmen never got the same presentation or staff that were at any of our meetings at the school district. I went to the first one. When Mary [Devine] talked, it became clear to me what she did, how important it was. The board of selectmen or the budget committee never heard that. It seemed piecemeal; wasn't the same the everybody. If you had that backup information right from the beginning; the statistics, I don't think we would have had anywhere near the questions and discussions. One of the things I learned as I was trying to get the Carpenter and Crescent Lake School through; the superintendent at the time said one of the things when I go to any kind of a meeting like this, I have the answer to any possible question that may be asked. I think that's what we missed. The more you can put that together as a department and a commission, the better it'll be for all of us.

Commissioner Coope- I'm not sure what the disconnect was. We started the process in August. The superintendent was there. We were as surprised as you were when we heard that they did not know about this. Somewhere it got lost in translation on their end. Being new to this I figured August-March – we had plenty of time to pull this together. Also, my thought process was, we're not reinventing the wheel. We already have an SRO. The selectmen and budget committee have been through this already so they have a good basis for all the information. The only difference is having the stats to back up having a second person (SRO).

We had a good feeling after the August school safety meeting that it was going to be overwhelming. People would vote in favor of it. Not so much the budget committee or even you folks. I knew if it got to the people, it would pass. The results of both the school district and town side didn't surprise me at all. But I take your point. I understand that now. The good news is with the Nashville shooting – awful obviously – but the police chief's press conference, they referred to the [shooter] manifest; she avoided the public schools because of the SROs. It saved a lot of lives having them there. She went to a Christian school

Mr. Deshaies states she went to the Christian Academy because she's a transgender individual and was at the Christian School when she was trying to understand her identity and was not getting support from the Christian school and her home life where they were not accepting what her opinion of what her opinion of her sexuality was. This went on for 15 years. She created a deep animosity for those individuals in her life. She was seeing mental health for that issue predicated by her parents who said she was not correct in then head associating as a female when she wasn't.

Commissioner O'Brien says three 9-year-old kids had nothing to do with any of this. That's the terrible tragedy.

Mr. Senecal asks is there anything else on the budget.

Mrs. Murray says she knows they want one officer for three years. That helps that we have that kind of information. That was in part of the budget that Dean had written. It was talked about in the budget committee. When it shows up next year, they're not going to be surprised. The more of that kind of background information we get and letting us realize where you're going is really helpful. When people ask me a question on the street, I like to be able to answer. When you provide the information, it makes it easier for me to answer those questions.

Commissioner Coope says he answered those questions and never had a negative one. I answered that it was efficiency of tax money. You need them during the school year; the day school lets out you now have two officers to put on the road to handle our population swing from 6000 to 26,000. It's super-efficient in my opinion- Where they need to be at certain times of the year.

Mr. Senecal asks if there's more comment on that.

Commissioner O'Brien comments that the police department posted on Facebook the retirement of K9 Riggs. and it's getting a lot of comments.

Mrs. Murray says it was nicely done.

Mr. Deshaies spoke with the officer before K9 Riggs was retired and with Dean and they explained why they were retiring the dog and why they were not continuing the program.

Mrs. Murray says Chief Rondeau came to the BoS about a month ago – around March 1st and I'm glad you got that out.

Mr. Senecal asks if there's anything else with reference to budgets? Thank you for your time.

Mr. Freudenberg says he has another item to bring up. I brought it up with Jim [Pineo] today and Commissioner Coope. The school bus at Carpenter – the door opens and the sign automatically deploys. Traffic stops for sometimes 20-minutes in the morning and 20 minutes at night. I drove through that back lot at Carpenter. I can't see why those buses 1- Can't pick up the kids at the back of the school which I think is safer anyway.

It really stops traffic for 15-20 minutes. Doesn't know if that was decided on by the police department or the school decided they would do that. Brian says

He brought this up before and had the buses in the back for a while.

Mr. Deshaies says in his 14 years at Carpenter with two different principals; it's state and federal RSA forever that if a school bus stops to put children on or off; lights go on; sign goes up – that's the law. They've done the front and back of the school for pickup-dropoff.

There's the issue of where they used to park at town hall; they said the buses can't park there.

So busses went to then back. Money could fix this. I've said this about eight or 10 years ago.

There's a lot of land on the backside of where the existing playground is that goes down to Lehner Street. Buses could come on School Street through the back parking lot, down the hill to Lehner Street and go right or left.

Mr. Freudenberg says they can go out next to the school; there are two ways out of the school parking lot. They can go up and make a left by the Pickering House; they can't make a right. Or go out the way they came in.

Mr. Deshaies says he doesn't think they can fit on the dirt road next to Pickering House.

Mr. Freudenberg says there's plenty of room. But they can only make a left.

Mr. Senecal comments that's up to them.

Mr. Deshaies says the buses earlier said they can't drive on the dirt road; it's owned by Pickering House.

Mr. Senecal and Mrs. Murray say the school has a right-of-way over the dirt road.

Mr. Deshaies says it's dirt that would have to be tarred; trees would have to be taken down; bollards that would have to be removed. And when the bus pulls in, that's the teacher parking lot; cars would have to be gone. There's no way the bus could make the corner.

Mr. Senecal says we're not going to solve that.

Mr. Deshaies says teacher parking spots would have to be moved and maybe lease space from the Congregational Church again. There is a solution; it would cost money. The school owns the lot.

Mrs. Murray says she's been through having the bus in the back. I'm with Luke; maybe it's ok for the buses to be in front in the winter. But if we start getting there in May, it's going to tie this town up in knots. I'm not sure they realized to what degree. I think it's worth a conversation with the school system. Buses used to be in the back; then somebody got the idea in the front. That's pretty dangerous. The police officer would come out bus... They put them in the back again. So I think it's a solid idea to have a conversation.

Mr. Freudenberg says the buses were out front for years and the stop sign – they would actively load. But there must have been a change that when you open the door the sign automatically turns on.

Commissioner Coope says he's not sure you can override it. You wouldn't want to.

Mr. Freudenberg says that would present a safety issue.

Lt. Maloney says it's a pet peeve; glad you brought it up.

Mr. Senecal mentions Lt. Maloney should perhaps call them.

Lt. Maloney says the current way, he gets hollered at along with other officers. You get a driver who's already passed the school bus. You're telling the person behind him to stop while you're waving the other; they're all confused. I'm trying to not get run over. The PF had nothing to do with that.

Mr. Pineo asks whether before COVID buses were in the back.

Mr. Deshaies says no, buses were in the front. Then they went to the back because of COVID.

Mrs. Murray says when her kids were there, buses were in the back; when her grandkids were there it was in the front and they moved it to the back again.

Mr. Pineo says when he moved into the town manager's office, there was always a stream of buses that were always going to the back of the building. Then I recalled during COVID, there was a breakdown of where parents were going based on age groups and alphabet.

Mrs. Murray says yes, that was COVID.

Commissioner Coope asks when buses were in the back, did the school staff park in the parking lot?

Mrs. Murray says there was no parking lot there when my older kids were there. When my grandkids were there, they did put that parking lot in. They were still putting the buses through the back of it. What it also did was open up a place in the front for parents to drive up and drop off and stay there to see their kids get into the building. She did that with her grandkids. There was a nice flow in front of the building. I can't see why they can't get the buses back there.

Lt. Maloney says recently he was on Union Street at the corner of School when school was getting out. It's an accident waiting to happen. You have people stopping to turn left from Lehner Street on to School Street and people passing them on the left. And zigzagging. It's a nightmare.

Mrs. Murray agrees. She was picking a kid up. The buses are stopping so they can't go out so then area just jams.

Commissioner Coope says things have changed. Years ago, not many parents drove their kids to school. Now everybody does. If you have the buses in the back and the people with vehicles in the front, there you go; that breaks things up. You're not impeding traffic.

Lt. Maloney says he'd start with the district transportation office at SAU.

Mrs. Murray says it's Jan Brooks and Mary Myers are filling in because the principal of Carpenter left. Jan would be a key one to talk to.

Commissioner Coope has given a copy of all the ticket information to Mr. Pineo who will scan it and give to BoS.

3. Other Business- None

4. Nonpublic session: RSA 91 A -None

Mrs. Murray makes a motion to adjourn.

Second by Mr. Freudenberg. Approved 5-0 7:44 p.m.

Next Meeting date: April 5, 2023, Regular Meeting

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Jorett', followed by a vertical line and another signature.

Brenda Jorett